

Dragon Mosquito Control, Inc.

Monthly Update

September 2021

Recently, the State Lab in Concord confirmed mosquitoes collected in Stratham and East Kingston tested positive for West Nile Virus (WNV). Earlier this season, WNV infected mosquitoes were trapped in Portsmouth, Salem, and Manchester. Jamestown Canyon Virus (JCV) has also been detected in New Hampshire. Fourteen mosquito batches have tested positive for JCV. Dates and locations can be found on the attached Arboviral Bulletin. One adult from Dublin, NH tested positive for JCV. His death is the second JCV fatality in the State. The first was a Derry man in 2018.

Testing of mosquitoes ends mid-October but the disease threat continues until we have two hard freezes. Until that happens, it's still important to avoid mosquito bites. Eliminate the places where mosquitoes breed by emptying containers in the yard that hold water such as buckets, wheelbarrows, tarps, toys, trash barrels and boats. Cleaning out rain gutters and emptying your birdbath also makes a difference.

September Highlights:

- No disease carrying mosquitoes have been detected in Newton as of October 1, 2021
- Monitored catch basins for larval mosquito activity
- Treated catch basins with an organic bacterium to control disease carrying mosquitoes
- Checked freshwater wetlands for mosquito larvae and treated as needed with Bti
- Emptied man-made containers where mosquito larvae were found
- Educated homeowners about mosquito control and avoiding mosquito bites
- Trapped adult mosquitoes in four locations throughout town
- Processed and identified adult mosquitoes to species
- Sent adult mosquito species to the State Lab in Concord for disease testing including Jamestown Canyon Virus

Warm weather is continuing into the fall, so mosquitoes linger. Ticks are also active. The majority of all Lyme disease cases are acquired from ticks picked up during activities around the yard. You can avoid ticks by staying out of the tall grass and using EPA approved repellent. Wearing light colored clothing and tucking your pants into your socks offers a better chance to spot ticks before they bite. Find more information at [Tick Free New Hampshire](#).

As our field work ends, we are already thinking about next season. Mosquitoes will likely continue to rebound from the drought in 2020. We anticipate an increased number of troublesome mosquito species and more disease. Mosquito populations and disease prevalence are linked to precipitation so this summer's rain may result in a more active season in 2022. Until next year, stay healthy and enjoy the fabulous fall weather.